

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AN:WBCOBB:TH

9/14/73 EXT. 22654

APPROVED BY EB/OA:JSMEADOWS

EB/OA/AN:MHSTYLES

ARA/APU:MR. TONKIN

CAB:MR. LITTON

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R 132228Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US/ARGENTINE ARRANGEMENT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6575

1. WHILE WE FULLY SHARE EMBASSY'S DISAPPOINTMENT THAT GOA PROPOSES EXTENDING "ACTUAL SITUATION" UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 1973, WE QUESTION WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING TO BE GAINED BY SETTING A DEADLINE SUCH AS OCTOBER 31, WHICH, IF NOT ADHERED TO, WOULD FORCE USG TO RETALIATE AGAINST ARGENTINE CARRIER, AND INCREASE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT TENSIONS.

2. WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT GOA WILL CONCLUDE THAT IT IS IN ITS INTEREST TO HONOR ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF MOU. OUR FALL NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE IS HEAVY AND WE WOULD, IF GOA EVENTUALLY ASKS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, PREFER TO HAVE REQUEST COME LATER RATHER THAN EARLIER.

3. DEPT HAS JUST RECEIVED GOA WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE MOST ENLIGHTENING, REFLECTING AS THEY DO

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DIVISIONS IN THE GOA RE VALIDITY OF MOU.

4. EMBASSY AUTHORIZED REPLY TO TETTAMANTI AS FOLLOWS
AND TO STATE ORALLY THAT USG FIRMLY EXPECTS GOA TO
IMPLEMENT MOU PRIOR OCTOBER 31 AT THE LATEST.

... I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY MY GOVERNMENT'S STRONG DISAPPOINTMENT THAT AFTER SO LONG A PERIOD THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA FINDS ITSELF UNABLE TO HONOR THE COMMITMENTS UNDER WHICH IT AGREED TO AUTHORIZE THE UNITED STATES CARRIERS TO OPERATE AS CONTEMPLATED IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DATED DECEMBER 22, 1972. IN ADDITION TO THE DELAYS WHICH OCCURRED PRIOR TO MID-JULY, THE FURTHER PERIOD OF DELAY AFTER JULY HAS ALREADY EXTENDED TO EIGHT MONTHS THE TIME THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN AWAITING ARGENTINE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM. THE ISSUES INVOLVED HAVE ALREADY BEEN STUDIED FOR MANY MONTHS AND MY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY AN ADDITIONAL NINETY-DAY PERIOD IS NECESSARY FOR THIS PURPOSE. MY GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO EXPECT THAT THE GOA WILL FIND IT IN ITS INTEREST TO HONOR THE COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN IN 1972 WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE LESS THAN 16 MONTHS REMAINING IN THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE MEMORANDUM. SHOULD OPERATING EXPERIENCE AT THE LEVEL PROVIDED FOR IN THE MEMORANDUM PROVE UNSATISFACTORY, CONSIDERATION CAN BE GIVEN TO WHAT ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE NECESSARY BUT UNTIL THAT LEVEL IS REACHED IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT ON CARRIER OPERATIONS ON EITHER SIDE. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THEREFORE LOOKS FORWARD TO EARLY IMPLEMENTATION BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OF ITS STATED INTENTIONS AS EMBODIED IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

5. FYI. IF GOA DESIRES CONSULTATIONS, WE ASSUME OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO DIMINISH RIGHTS AGREED TO IN DECEMBER 1972. CONSEQUENTLY WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN AGREEING AT THIS TIME TO CONSULTATIONS BUT WILL ENDEAVOR TO INSIST THAT 1972 ARRANGEMENTS BE IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO FURTHER TALKS. RUSH

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